

**February 8, 2007**

***I support AB45!***

I am writing to express my strong support for Assembly Bill 45, introduced by Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, which returns specific administrative powers to the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD).

It has been 3 1/2 years since Oakland's elected School Board was disempowered and the School District placed in receivership. Since that time, the OUSD has diligently complied with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) recovery plans and has submitted all required progress reports. That's why FCMAT's latest report, issued on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, urges restoring specific administrative and managerial functions to the local School Board. To date, however, FCMAT's recommendation to give the Oakland School Board authority over community relations and governance has not been granted by Superintendent O'Connell as recommended in this report.

Currently, there is no time line to gauge the progress deemed necessary for return of community participation and District accountability. A timeline to return accountability to the School Board is essential for meaningful parental participation in the educational decisions affecting their children. Parents have complained for years that the current process does not allow them an opportunity hold the School Board accountable and feel the current process is arbitrary and unfairly opened-ended. Oakland has now elected a new School Board majority that was not on the Board during the State's takeover of the District. The new Board deserves an opportunity to form a meaningful partnership with the State Department of Education, FCMAT, parents and local elected officials, which is critical to achieve success in creating a strong and focused learning environment.

I support AB45 because our schools should always be our greatest example of democracy and must support parental and community participation. Parents, students, and educators deserve and require a School Board that is accountable for educational decisions affecting all of Oakland Unified School District's many participants.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Full Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Job Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

**I want to show my support for AB45!**

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**I will write a letter to the editor.**

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**I will call legislators on the day of the vote and urge them to support AB45.**

**Please notify me on the day of the vote *via email*. My email is: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**I will call legislators on the day of the vote and urge them to support AB45.**

**Please notify me on the day of the vote via text message. My cell phone is: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**I will attend a rally, press conference, or other event in support of AB45.**

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**I will come to Sacramento and testify before the Education Committee on why AB45 is important to this community.**

***Please fax to (916) 319-2116  
Contact Amber Maltbie at (916) 319-2016 with any questions***